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## Spin doctors go into overdrive

Political disinformation floods cyberspace ahead of polls

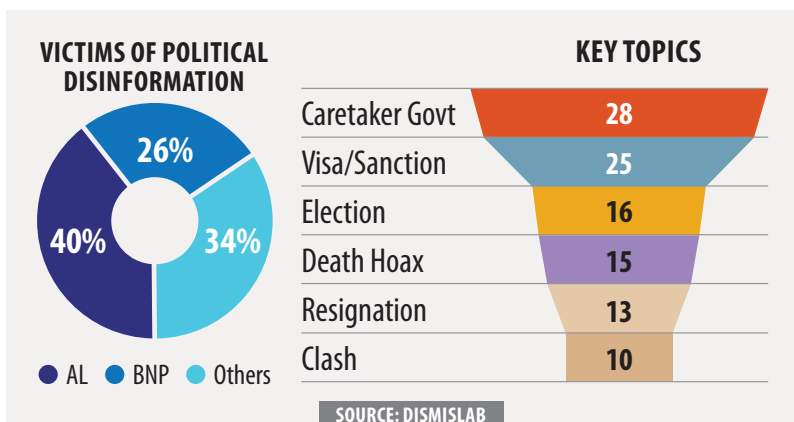
ZYMA ISLAM and  
MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

With the national election just around the corner, both pro-government and anti-government elements are out to manipulate public opinion through a vigorous campaign on social media platforms and private messaging apps, turning them into hotbeds of spin doctoring, disinformation and fake news.

In September alone, fact checkers identified at least 84 instances of political disinformation, up from 32 in January, according to Dismislab, a fact-checking organisation.

Its findings, based on examination of 2,049 verified fake news, show a surge in disinformation centred around US visa policies and sanctions, with a spike in September.

Instances included the



widespread circulation of lists falsely claiming visa bans on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, ministers, advisers, pro-government teachers, and police officers, as well as fabricated statements attributed to the US

ambassador asserting visa bans on BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Dismislab found.

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## Cox's Bazar linked to rail grid now

PM opens 102km line from Dohazari, 14 other projects

STAR REPORT

The much anticipated railway line between Chattogram's Dohazari and Cox's Bazar was opened yesterday, ushering in a new era for trade and connectivity in the region.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated it amid much fanfare in Cox's Bazar.

The 102-km dual gauge single line marks the establishment of the first rail link to the southeast coast.

"I am so delighted today as Cox's Bazar has come under the railway network. This is a day to feel proud of," the PM said while inaugurating the rail line and the oyster-shaped Cox's Bazar Railway Station.

"I made a promise. I am happy that I have been able to fulfil it," she said.

PHOTO ON PAGE 2

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## BNP, its allies destroy what we build: PM

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Taking a swipe at BNP and its allies, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said they only know how to carry out destruction.

"We focus on creation and they [BNP and its allies] resort to destruction."

She was speaking at the inauguration of the 102-km Dohazari-Cox's Bazar rail line in Cox's Bazar.

Recalling BNP Jamaat's arson terrorism, she added, "Their mind is filled with darkness."

"Those who can kill people by carrying out arson on buses, trucks, and trains are not blind at all. Their mind is filled with darkness."

Hasina, also the Awami League president, urged all to remain vigilant against the BNP and its allies. She warned that destruction and burning people will not be tolerated.

Referring to the construction of the Bangabandhu Bridge over the Jamuna, she said the World Bank at that time said rail link would not be viable.

"What's interesting is that the rail is very viable now and the World Bank came up with a proposal to build a separate rail bridge over the Jamuna," she said, adding she accepted the proposal at once.

The PM said the government will take effective measures to ensure people from every corner of the country can travel to Cox's Bazar by train.

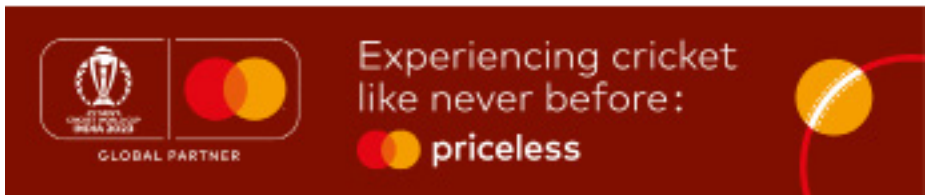
Giving a brief on the development activities by her government to flourish the country's railway sector, Hasina said the sector will be improved to match the global standard within 4-5 years.

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Mitchell Marsh raises his bat after reaching his century on way to scoring an unbeaten 177, which helped Australia beat Bangladesh by eight wickets in Pune yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



## Tigers' bleak run ends with defeat

MAZHAR UDDIN from Pune

Bangladesh saved their best batting for last but in vain as the Tigers finished their World Cup campaign with an eight-wicket defeat to Australia at the Maharashtra Cricket Stadium in Pune yesterday.

Despite managing their highest score in this edition, 306 for eight, Bangladesh were unable to pressurise their opponents at any point in the chase.

A brilliant unbeaten century from Mitchell Marsh helped the five-time champions pursue the target with ease, with eight wickets in hand, and also provided a lesson for all the frontline Bangladesh batters who

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ডাক বিজ্ঞানের ডিজিটাল লেনদেন

England KO Babar and Co

AFP, Kolkata

England sent Pakistan crashing out of the World Cup with a convincing 93-run win as Ben Stokes and David Willey helped their team end their miserable

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

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## ট্রেনত চড়ি দইজ্জার পাড় এক্কোটানে কক্সবাজার

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